

It is vital that the U.S. take new measures to ensure that workforce challenges are met and overcome for current and future generations. By undertaking and overcoming the challenges before us, we will enhance both the quality of healthcare and the quality of life, provide access nationwide, and build a health care system that is consistent with our current and future health and economic needs. The Health Workforce Advisory Commission can serve a new and integral role for our health care system and our society, now and in the future.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 831

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Health Workforce Advisory Commission Act of 2005".

#### SEC. 2. HEALTH WORKFORCE ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Comptroller General shall establish a commission to be known as the Health Workforce Advisory Commission (referred to in this Act as the "Commission").

##### (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall be composed of 18 members to be appointed by the Comptroller General not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and an ex-officio member who shall serve as the Director of the Commission.

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—In appointing members to the Commission under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall ensure that—

(A) the Commission includes individuals with national recognition for their expertise in health care workforce issues, including workforce forecasting, undergraduate and graduate training, economics, health care and health care systems financing, public health policy, and other fields;

(B) the members are geographically representative of the United States and maintain a balance between urban and rural representatives;

(C) the members includes a representative from the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service;

(D) the members represent the spectrum of professions in the current and future healthcare workforce, including physicians, nurses, and other health professionals and personnel, and are skilled in the conduct and interpretation of health workforce measurement, monitoring and analysis, health services, economic, and other workforce related research and technology assessment;

(E) at least 25 percent of the members who are health care providers are from rural areas; and

(F) a majority of the members are individuals who are not currently primarily involved in the provision or management of health professions education and training programs.

##### (3) TERMS AND VACANCIES.—

(A) **TERMS.**—The term of service of the members of the Commission shall be for 3 years except that the Comptroller General shall designate staggered terms for members initially appointed under paragraph (1).

(B) **VACANCIES.**—Any member who is appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission

that occurs before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term.

##### (4) CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) **DESIGNATION.**—The Comptroller General shall designate a member of the Commission, at the time of the appointment of such member—

(i) to serve as the Chairperson of the Commission; and

(ii) to serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Commission.

(B) **TERM.**—A member shall serve as the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Commission under subparagraph (A) for the term of such member.

(C) **VACANCY.**—In the case of a vacancy in the Chairpersonship or Vice Chairpersonship, the Comptroller General shall designate another member to serve for the remainder of the vacant member's term.

##### (c) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

(1) review the health workforce policies implemented—

(A) under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395, 1396 et seq.);

(B) under titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292, 296 et seq.);

(C) by the National Institutes of Health;

(D) by the Department of Health and Human Services;

(E) by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(F) by other departments and agencies as appropriate;

(2) analyze and make recommendations to improve the methods used to measure and monitor the health workforce and the relationship between the number and make up of such personnel and the access of individuals to appropriate health care;

(3) review the impact of health workforce policies and other factors on the ability of the health care system to provide optimal medical and health care services;

(4) analyze and make recommendations pertaining to Federal incentives (financial, regulatory, and otherwise) and Federal programs that are in place to promote the education of an appropriate number and mix of health professionals to provide access to appropriate health care in the United States;

(5) analyze and make recommendations about the appropriate supply and distribution of physicians, nurses, and other health professionals and personnel to achieve a health care system that is safe, effective, patient centered, timely, equitable, and efficient;

(6) analyze the role and global implications of internationally trained physicians, nurses, and other health professionals and personnel in the United States health workforce;

(7) analyze and make recommendations about achieving appropriate diversity in the United States health workforce;

(8) conduct public meetings to discuss health workforce policy issues and help formulate recommendations for Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(9) in the course of meetings conducted under paragraph (8), consider the results of staff research, presentations by policy experts, and comments from interested parties;

(10) make recommendations to Congress concerning health workforce policy issues;

(11) not later than April 15, 2006, and each April 15 thereafter, submit a report to Congress containing the results of the reviews conducted under this subsection and the recommendations developed under this subsection;

(12) periodically, as determined appropriate by the Commission, submit reports to Congress concerning specific issues that the Commission determines are of high importance; and

(13) carry out any other activities determined appropriate by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

##### (d) ONGOING DUTIES CONCERNING REPORTS AND REVIEWS.—

###### (1) COMMENTING ON REPORTS.—

(A) **SUBMISSION TO COMMISSION.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall transmit to the Commission a copy of each report that is submitted by the Secretary to Congress if such report is required by law and relates to health workforce policy.

(B) **REVIEW.**—The Commission shall review a report transmitted under subparagraph (A) and, not later than 6 months after the date on which the report is transmitted, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress written comments concerning such report. Such comments may include such recommendations as the Commission determines appropriate.

###### (2) AGENDA AND ADDITIONAL REVIEWS.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall consult periodically with the chairman and ranking members of the appropriate committees of Congress concerning the agenda and progress of the Commission.

(B) **ADDITIONAL REVIEWS.**—The Commission may from time to time conduct additional reviews and submit additional reports to the appropriate committees of Congress on topics relating to Federal health workforce-related programs and as may be requested by the chairman and ranking members of such committees.

(3) **AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.**—The Commission shall transmit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services a copy of each report submitted by the Commission under this section and shall make such reports available to the public.

###### (e) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) **GENERAL POWERS.**—Subject to such review as the Comptroller General determines to be necessary to ensure the efficient administration of the Commission, the Commission may—

(A) employ and fix the compensation of the Executive Director and such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its duties;

(B) seek such assistance and support as may be required in the performance of its duties from appropriate Federal departments \*and agencies;

(C) enter into contracts or make other arrangements as may be necessary for the conduct of the work of the Commission;

(D) make advance, progress, and other payments that relate to the work of the Commission;

(E) provide transportation and subsistence for personnel who are serving without compensation; and

(F) prescribe such rules and regulations at the Commission determined necessary with respect to the internal organization and operation of the Commission.

(2) **INFORMATION.**—To carry out its duties under this section, the Commission—

(A) shall have unrestricted access to all deliberations, records, and nonproprietary data maintained by the General Accounting Office;

(B) may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its duties under this section, on a schedule that is agreed upon between the Chairperson and the head of the department or agency involved;

(C) shall utilize existing information (published and unpublished) collected and assessed either by the staff of the Commission or under other arrangements;

(D) may conduct, or award grants or contracts for the conduct of, original research and experimentation where information